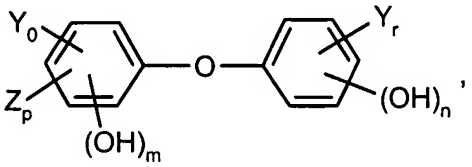
1. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with a composition comprising

(a) a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula

(1) 

wherein

Y is chlorine or bromine,

Z is SO_2H, NO_2; or C_1-C_4alkyl;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2;

r is from 0 to 3;

o is from 1 to 3; and

p is 0, 1 or 2;

~~as a melanogenesis inhibitor and for lightening the skin~~.

2. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1)

m is 0; or 1;

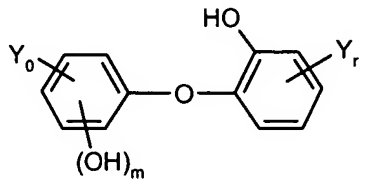
n is 1; or 2;

o is from 1 to 3;

p is 0; or 1; and

r is 1 or 2.

3. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula

(2) 

wherein

m is 0; or 1;

o is from 1 to 3; and

r is 1 or 2.

4. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 3, wherein in formula (2)

m is 0;

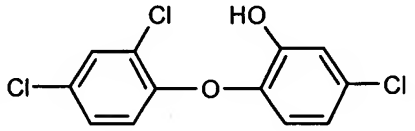
and o and r are as defined in claim 3.

5. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein

o is 1 or 2; and

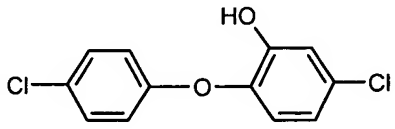
r is 1.

6. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula

(3) 

.

7. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula

(4) 

.

8. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula (1) is used simultaneously for the antimicrobial treatment of the skin and mucosa and also of integumentary appendages (hair).

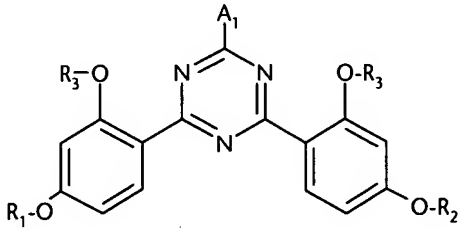
9. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein there is additionally used, as component (b), a further skin-lightening substance.

10. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9, wherein component (b) is selected from kojic acid, arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, guaiol, ellagic acid and ester compounds thereof and fluorescent whiteners.

11. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 9, wherein the ratio of components (a) : (b) is from 1 : 99~~, especially 5 : 95, and more especially from 10 : 90~~ to 99 : 1~~, preferably 95 : 5, and especially 90 : 10~~ % by weight ~~of component (b)~~.

12. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises, as component (c), one or more UV-A and/or UV-B absorbers.

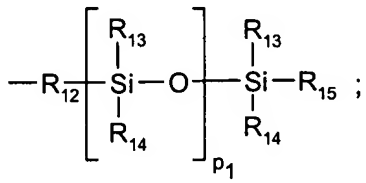
13. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12, wherein there is used as UV-A or UV-B absorber a compound of formula

(5) 

wherein

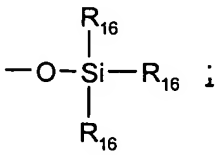
R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other C_1-C_{18}alkyl; C_2-C_{18}alkenyl; a radical of formula

$-CH_2-CH(-OH)-CH_2-O-T_1$; or

R_1 and R_2 are a radical of formula  ;

R_{12} is a direct bond; a straight-chain or branched C_1-C_4alkylene radical or a radical of formula

$-C_{m_1}H_{2m_1}-$ or $-C_{m_1}H_{2m_1}O-$;

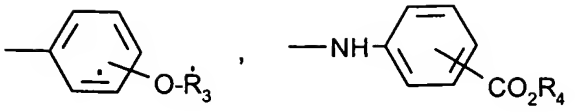
R_{13}, R_{14} and R_{15} are each independently of the others C_1-C_{18}alkyl; C_1-C_{18}alkoxy or a radical of formula  ;

R_{16} is C_1-C_5alkyl;

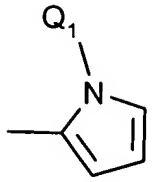
m_1 and m_3 are each independently of the other from 1 to 4;

p_1 is 0 or a number from 1 to 5;

A_1 is a radical of formula



or ~~of formula~~



wherein

R_3 is hydrogen; C_1-C_{10}alkyl, $-(CH_2CHR_5-O)_{n_1}-R_4$; or a radical of formula $-CH_2-CH(-OH)-CH_2-O-T_1$;

R_4 is hydrogen; M; C_1-C_5alkyl; or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_{m_2}-O-T_1$;

R_5 is hydrogen; or methyl;

T_1 is hydrogen; or C_1-C_8alkyl;

Q_1 is C_1-C_{18}alkyl;

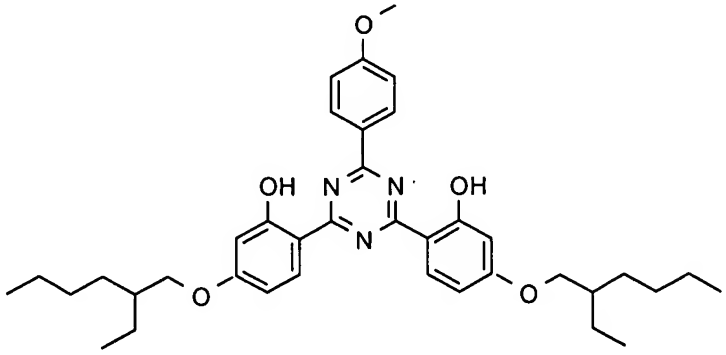
M is a metal cation;

m_2 is from 1 to 4; and

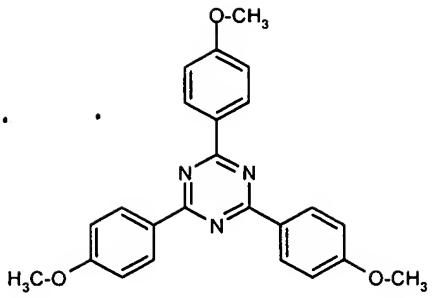
n_1 is 1-16.

14. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula

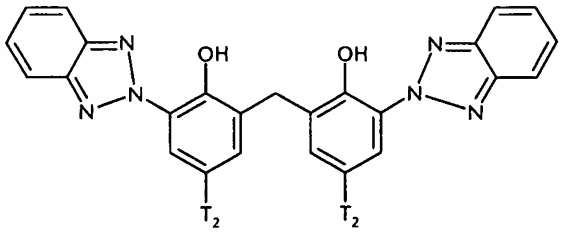
(5e)



15. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula

(5f) 

16. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula

(8)  wherein

T_2 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl.

17. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 16, wherein
T_2 is iso-octyl.

18. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12, wherein the composition comprises octyl methoxycinnamate as component (c).

19. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12, wherein the composition comprises benzophenone-3 as component (c).

20. (cancelled).

21. (currently amended): A method wherein ~~Use of~~ a composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1 is incorporated into cosmetic formulations.

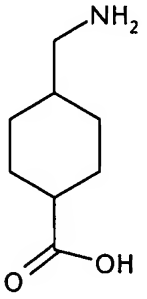
22. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 21, wherein the composition is used in the form of an oil-in-water formulation, in a solvent formulation or in the form of a paste formulation.

23. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~, wherein the proportion of the ~~mixture~~ composition in the formulation is from 0.01% to 10% parts by weight.

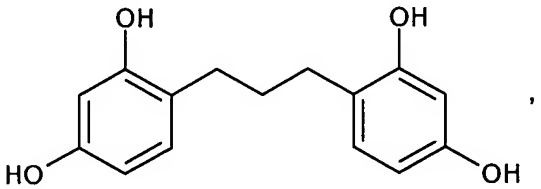
24. (currently amended): A cosmetic formulation, comprising

(a) a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1; and one or more of components (b) and/or (c): wherein

(b) is a further skin-lightening active ingredient selected from the group consisting of pyrone derivatives, hydroquinone, hydroquinone glycosides, hydroquinone derivatives, resorcinol derivatives, glycine, glutathione, acetylcysteine, oligopeptides, alkyldicarboxylic acids, 1,2-dihydroxyphenyl derivatives, urea, allantoin, furanones, phenylacetaldehydes, benzaldehydes, 4-methoxycinnamaldehydes, isomeric decenoic acid, ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, salicylic acid derivatives, phenolic substances, benzo[b]pyran derivatives, bornyl and cinnamate derivatives, azulene and derivatives thereof, cell messenger substances, fluorescent whiteners, and compounds of formulae



and



(c) is one or more UV-A and/or UV-B absorbers,

and optionally

(d) an antioxidant, and also cosmetically acceptable adjuvants or carriers.

25. (currently amended): A cosmetic formulation according to claim 24, containing

from 0.001 to 10 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.05 to 1 % by weight,~~ component (a),

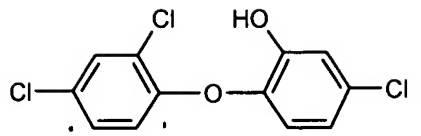
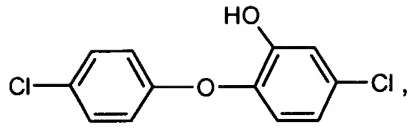
from 0 to 10 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.05 to 1 % by weight,~~ component (b),

from 0 to 30 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.1 to 15 % by weight,~~ component (c), and

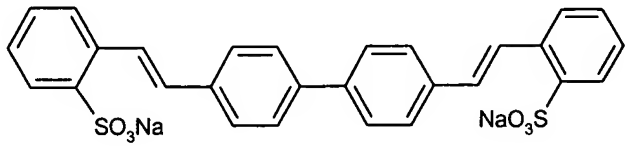
from 0 to 30 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.1 to 15 % by weight,~~ component (d).

26. A cosmetic formulation, containing

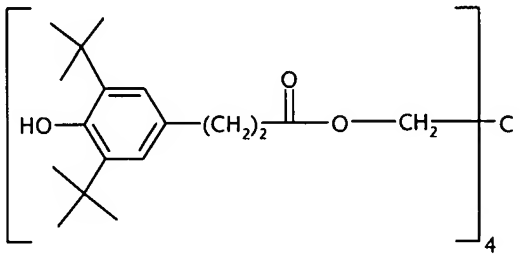
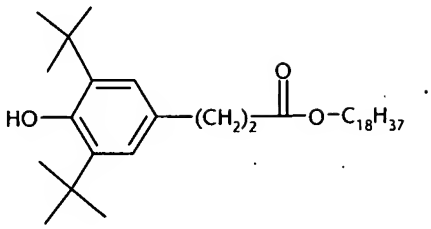
from 0.05 to 2 % of component (a), selected from the compound of formula

(3)  or (4)  ,

from 0.01 to 2 % of component (b), selected from the compound of formula

(FW 19)  , and

from 0.05 to 2 of % component (d), selected from the compound of formula

(AO 26)  and (AO 27) 

27. A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with an effective amount ~~Use~~ of a formulation according to claim 26 in surfactant-containing cleansing compositions.

28. (original): Cleansing composition, comprising
0.05 to 2 % b.w. of component (a),
0.001 to 2 % b.w. of component (b),
0 to 2 % b.w. of component (c),
0 to 2 % b.w. of component (d), and
0.1 to 10 % b.w. of one or more synthetic detergents or soaps or a combination of such substances, where components (a), (b), (c) and (d) are as defined in claim 24.

29. (currently amended): A cosmetic formulation according to claim 24, wherein component (b) is selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, α-arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, guaiol, ellagic acid and esters thereof and also the fluorescent whiteners of formula

(FW-22)